

Filed for intro on 01/17/2002
SENATE BILL 2155 By
Dixon

HOUSE BILL 2274
By Cooper B

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to
low performing schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 6, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

49-1-613. (a) For children in low performing schools, the state has a
responsibility to encourage equitable treatment of all children. For the purposes of this
section, a low performing school is a school that has been placed on probation under
this part.

(b) The department of education shall assist any school placed on probation
pursuant to Section 49-1-602 by conducting a multi-disciplinary assessment of the needs
of the school. The assessment shall include consultation with parent and community
groups and with law enforcement. The assessment shall include the recommendation of
additional intensive services designed to enable the school to meet the goals set by
Section 49-1-601(c) and (d). The department shall provide technical assistance to
schools to assist with the planning and operational costs of recommendations identified

by the assessment. The department shall make every effort to assist a low performing school in obtaining additional public and private funds to implement the assessment's recommendations.

(c) The assessment shall specifically consider and make recommendations for a low performing school concerning the following interventions:

- (1) reducing class size to no more than fifteen (15) students per class;
- (2) implementing literacy intervention programs to ensure that a school's students can read at the appropriate grade level;
- (3) implementing policies to enhance the training and professional development of teachers at the school;
- (4) coordinating with law enforcement and other appropriate entities to ensure safe school environments; and
- (5) encouraging parental and community engagement with the school.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.